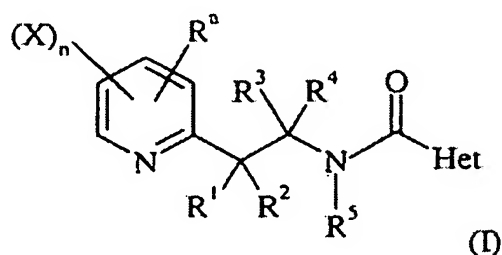


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of ~~general~~ formula (I)



in which :

- n is 1, 2 or 3;
- R^a is a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;
- each substituent X is ~~chosen, independently of the others, as being~~ independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, ~~and or~~ a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl;
- R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are ~~chosen, independently of the others, as being~~ independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-C₁-C₆-alkyl group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₂-C₆-alkynyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl

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having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, a C₂-C₆-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy, a C₃-C₆-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C₁-C₆-alkyl-C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphenyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphinyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulphonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group and or a phenyl group; or R¹ and R² may form together a cyclopropyl, a ~~cyclobutyl~~ cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

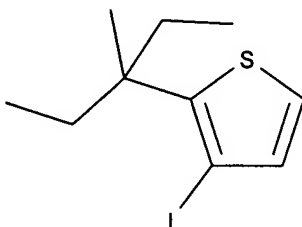
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- R⁵ is ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₆-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₂-C₆-alkynyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-cyanoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-aminoalkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, a C₃-C₇-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl, and ~~or~~ a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

- Het represents a ~~5-, 6- or 7-membered non-fused~~ heterocycle ~~with one, two or three~~ heteroatoms which may be the same or different, of the structure



Het being linked by a carbon atom ~~and being at least substituted in ortho position;~~

as well as its salts, ~~N-oxides~~ N-oxides, metallic complexes, metalloidic complexes and optically active isomers.

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2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein n is 1 or 2.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein X is a halogen atom.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein X is chlorine.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein R^a is -CF₃.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3- and/or in the 5-position.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by X and in the 5-position by R".

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by -Cl and in the 5-position by -CF₃.

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9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
~~wherein~~ R¹ and R² are chosen, independently of each other, as being selected from the group
consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a
C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₂-C₆-alkenyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxy, a C₁-C₆-
alkylsulfanyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfenyl, a C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, a C₁-C₆-
alkylcarbonylamino, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonylamino, and ~~or~~ a phenyl
group.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~
~~wherein~~ R¹ and R² are chosen, independently of each other, as being selected from the group
consisting of a halogen atom, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms,
and ~~or~~ a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
~~wherein~~ R³ and R⁴ are chosen, independently of each other, as being selected from the group
consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C₁-C₆-alkyl, a C₁-C₆-
halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonylamino, and ~~or~~ a phenyl group.

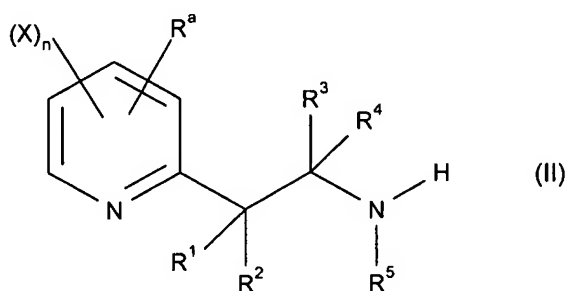
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12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ compound according to ~~of~~ claim 11, characterised in that wherein R^3 and R^4 are ~~chosen~~, independently of each other, as being selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, a C_1 - C_6 -halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, ~~and~~ or a phenyl group.

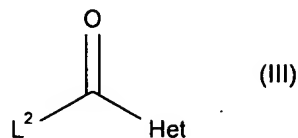
13. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ compound according to ~~of~~ claim 1, characterised in that wherein R^5 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, ~~and~~ or a C_3 - C_7 -cycloalkyl.

14 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of ~~the~~ ~~general~~ formula (II) or one of its salt ~~salts~~:



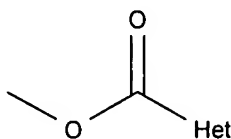
with a carboxylic acid derivative of the ~~the~~ ~~general~~ formula (III)



in which :

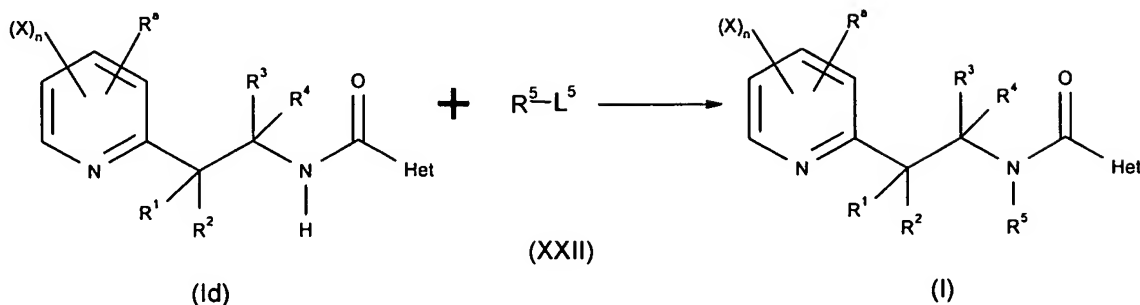
and

- L^2 is a leaving group ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, $-OR^6$, $-OCOR^6$, R^6 being a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, a C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl or a group of formula



in the presence of a catalyst and, if L^2 is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to of claim 16; ~~characterised in that~~ wherein R^5 is a hydrogen atom and ~~that~~ the process is completed by a further step according to the following reaction scheme:



in which :

- L^5 is a leaving group ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;
 comprising the reaction of a compound of ~~general~~ formula (Id) with a compound of general formula (XXII) to provide a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I).

18. (Previously Presented) A fungicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and an agriculturally acceptable support.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventively or curatively~~ combating the phytopathogenic fungi of crops, characterised in that an effective and non-phytotoxic amount of a composition according to claim 18 is applied to the plant seeds or to the plant leaves and/or to the fruits of the plants or to the soil in which the plants are growing or in which it is desired to grow them.